

1289(1) SEP 23 1999

Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

23 September 1999

Dear Mr. Breitenbach,

Please include the following comments to the CALFED plan.

- 1) Do not let this opportunity fall prey to the Agricultural and Agribusiness industries. They have collectively destroyed millions of acres of the state's previously healthy and once-productive ecosystems for the sole sake of personal profit. It is time that we make these (and all) industries responsible for their actions. Better yet, it is time that we develop plans that require responsible actions by the business community.
- 2) Nature and wildlife have historically been treated with little or no respect in previous economic decisions (agriculture, urbanization, land development). CALFED has rightfully placed nature and wildlife as a stakeholder in its plan. This position, however is weak as it is surrounded by other consumptive-use stakeholder positions. DO NOT WEAKEN THE STAKEHOLDER POSITION OF WILDLIFE AND HABITAT. IT IS ALREADY WEAK ENOUGH.
- 3) Please keep in mind that maintaining a strong wildlife and habitat focus will result in a stronger, more sustainable economic future for California. A state that bases its economy on natural resources MUST care for and tirelessly protect these same resources.
- 4) Do not let historic abuse and waste of water and resources (regardless of its political power) drive your decisions. Let's get out of this rut! Keep the future of ALL California (not just the present politics) clearly in mind as you forge this important plan.
- 5) California must require all users of water and its precious resources to be fully and completely responsible with and for actions that effect supply, quality and sustainability for the future.

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- 6) Make CONSERVATION the primary method of contending with California's water problems. EXPLORE every possible avenue for REDUCED USE of water for agriculture, business and urban use. Since agriculture is the biggest user of California's developed water, its efforts should also be the largest.
- 7) California's water utilization is historically enormous as well as enormously wasteful. These figures are not those upon which to base future needs. Instead, base California's future water needs on realistic assumptions that require appropriate water reduction and water conservation strategies.
- 8) Restore fish and wildlife habitat at every opportunity
- 9) Remove any/all dams deemed unproductive/unnecessary where they obstruct natural fish passage.
- 10) Allow no increases in water withdrawals occur where they would negatively effect habitat or wildlife, either upstream or downstream.
- 11) Provide for increases in stream flows wherever possible, especially where it benefits anadromous fisheries.
- 12) Forget dams! They are costly, environmentally devastating, temporary, and uninspired engineering approaches to water storage and flood control. They are also guaranteed to become obsolete and/or fail in the future. Don't place future Californians in this futile position of reconstructing a system that really works and paying for this generation's short-sightedness.
- 13) Study droughts! We have enough data on floods and not enough on droughts. Our water availability projections are way too high, based upon only the past few decades of rainfall. Deeper study into historic droughts will illustrate our need to use LESS not MORE.
- 14) Require users to obey the law. When polluters and wasters violate laws, withdraw their supplies. We don't keep giving money to the thieves that steal from us, why should we do so with those who take or pollute?

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- 15) Address the reality that broad-based management of healthy habitats and biological diversity is in the best interests of all humans as well as for future economies.

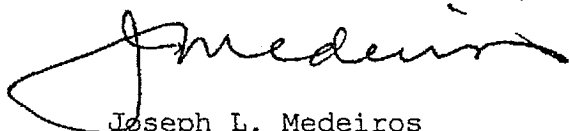
CALFED has not failed yet. But it will if it allows the same use/waste paradigm to exist with regards to California's water.

Are we capable of:

- prohibiting the subsidizing of crops which use disproportionate amounts of water? (alfalfa, pasture, cotton, rice, melons, etc)
- prohibiting the subsidizing of agriculture which is not essential for human health? (cows)
- subsidizing healthy/environmentally responsible agriculture
- subsidizing sustainable economies
- subsidizing research and development in water conservation and energy conservation
- investing in recovery economies (fisheries, forests, etc)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CALFED plan.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph L. Medeiros
1300 Merry Knoll Road
Auburn, CA 95603